

Members:

Sen. Murray Clark, Chair
Sen. Sue Landske
Sen. Joseph Zakas
Sen. Allie Craycraft
Sen. Joseph O'Day
Sen. Katie Wolf
Rep. Sheila Klinker, V. Chair
Rep. Ben GiaQuinta
Rep. Vern Tincher
Rep. Robert Alderman
Rep. Dean Mock
Rep. William Ruppel



INTERIM STUDY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT ISSUES

Legislative Services Agency

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Authority: Legislative Council Resolution 2-1998

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: September 23, 1998

Meeting Time: 10:30 A.M.

Meeting Place: State House, 200 W. Washington St. Room 233

Meeting City: Indianapolis, Indiana

Meeting Number: 2

Members Present: Sen. Murray Clark, Chairperson; Sen. Joseph Zakas; Rep. Sheila Klinker; Rep. Ben GiaQuinta; Rep. Robert Alderman; Rep. Dean Mock; Rep. William Ruppel.

Members Absent: Sen. Sue Landske; Sen. Allie Craycraft; Sen. Joseph O'Day; Sen. Katie Wolf; Rep. Vern Tincher.

Senator Clark called the meeting to order. The minutes of the August 10, 1998 meeting were approved as mailed.

Recodification of Firefighter and Emergency Services Statute

Mara Snyder, Staff Attorney, Office of the State Fire Marshal, stated that at this time the statutes dealing with volunteer firefighters are located in Title 36 and changes are not needed.

Disability Insurance and Payments for Volunteer Firefighters

John Shanks, representing the Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association, stated that the intent of HB 1174-1998 was to establish standards (based upon the worker's compensation standards) that would create parity between compensation to volunteer firefighters who suffer a disability due to an injury incurred in the line of duty and full-time firefighters who are injured in the line of duty. Mr. Shanks stated that IC 36-8-12-7 provides that a volunteer firefighter with a total disability, which prevents the member from pursuing his usual vocation, receives compensation of \$150 per week for a maximum of 26 weeks.

Tammy Schornstein, Insurance Institute of Indiana, furnished members with information on insurance coverage provided by other states for volunteer firefighters.¹

¹This document is on file in the Legislative Information Center, Room 230, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana. The telephone number of the Legislative Information Center is (317) 232-9856, and the mailing address is 200 W. Washington St., Suite 301, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2789.

Several committee members expressed concerns regarding the cost of providing disability insurance for volunteer firefighters.

Representative Ruppel stated he would like to have a plan including implementation costs recommended to the Committee at the next meeting.

Senator Clark suggested that the interested parties (i.e., Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association, Insurance Institute of Indiana, Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, and the Township Association) meet and decide what recommendations regarding this issue they would like to make to the Committee at the next meeting.

State and Local Property Lines

Jo Angela Woods, Attorney, Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, stated her concerns about PD 3083².

Following committee discussion, Representative Alderman moved and Representative Klinker seconded the passage of PD 3083. The passage of PD 3083 failed by a vote of 3-4.³

Firefighting and Emergency Equipment Revolving Loan Fund

Mr. Shanks stated there continues to be confusion among volunteer firefighting departments/companies concerning what funding is available for the purchase of firefighting equipment.

Charles Baker, Midwest Fire and Safety, stated that the price of firefighting equipment and apparatuses has increased tremendously over the years. Mr. Baker added that it is difficult for volunteer firefighting departments/companies to pay for expensive equipment.

Jim Parker, Past President, Indiana Volunteer Firemen's Association, stated that volunteer firefighting departments/companies need one place to go to get a loan and a simple application form for applying for a loan.

Following committee discussion and based on funding information provided by Anne Haley, Staff Attorney, Legislative Services Agency⁴, Senator Clark directed Ms. Haley to prepare a preliminary draft combining the Firefighting and Emergency Equipment Revolving Loan Fund (established by IC 22-14-5-1) and the Fire Safety Equipment Revolving Loan Program (created under P.L. 340-1995). Committee members recommended that the preliminary draft include a funding source for the combined loan program. Senator Clark encouraged committee members to contact Ms. Haley with any other recommendations they may have regarding the proposed legislation.

Senator Clark stated that the next meeting of the Interim Study Committee on Local Government Issues will be Thursday, October 15, 1998, at 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business, Senator Clark adjourned the meeting.

²A copy of this information is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see Footnote 1).

³ Legislative Council Resolution 1-98, Section 9, states "unless there are specific contrary provisions in a statute, a study committee may not recommend a final bill draft, or a final report, unless that draft or report has been approved by a majority of the voting members appointed to serve on that committee." The motion failed due to a lack of a yes vote by a majority of the appointed members.

⁴A copy of this information is on file in the Legislative Information Center (see Footnote 1).